

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 123664

O 241308Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6799

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJ: KAGNEW 4: BRIEFING OF EPMG

REF: A) STATE 253190; B) KHARTOUM 2471

1. POL COUNSELOR VERBALLY BRIEFED ACTING AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MOFA OCT 24, PER REF A PARA 2, ON MEETING DESCRIBED REF B AS WELL AS PLANNED USG RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES.

2. TEXT OF BRIEFING WHICH WAS READ SLOWLY TO DIRECTOR FOLLOWS. DIRECTOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

BEGIN TEXT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT TO THE FONMIN OF OCT 9 (CF ADDIS 11972 PARA (2)(F)) I AM PLEASE TO INFORM YOU AS FOLLOWS:

TWO AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICERS MET OCT 22 IN  
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KHARTOUM WITH TWO ELF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SUBJECT

OF THE TWO AMERICANS ABDUCTED FROM KAGNEW STATION ON SEPTEMBER 12, MESSRS. BOWIDOWICZ AND STRICLAND, BELIEVED HELD BY THE ELF.

ELF REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT THESE TWO AMERICAN CAPTIVES WERE IN GOOD HEALTH AND STATED THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF U.S. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE EPMG.

THE ELF REPRESENTATIVE FORMULATED THE FOLLOWING "RECOMMENDATIONS" CONVEYING INDIRECTLY THAT THE USG'S ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD LEAD TO THE RELEASE OF THESE TWO MEN:

- (A) EVACUATE KAGNEW STATION;
- (B) STOP ECONOMIC, MILITARY, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL AID TO THE EPMG;
- (C) GIVE THE ELF US\$7 MILLION;
- (D) FURNISH MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOOD AND MEDICINES TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN

IN RESPONSE THE AMERICAN SIDE:

- (A) PASSED COPIES OF MESSAGES PREPARED BY THESE TWO CAPTIVES' FAMILIES IN MID-SEPTEMBER (WHICH EPMG HAS);
- (B) SAID THAT THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY THE FAMILIES ARE BROADLY SHARED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC;
- (C) ADDED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS DEMONSTRATING THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS AND IN OTHER WAYS INCREASING IMPATIENCE AND ANTAGONISM TOWARDS ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUED HOLDING OF THAND THREATS TO FOUR

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AMERICAN HOSTAGES;

- (D) STATED THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS THE CAPTIVES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED; AND
- (E) SAID THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WERE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE LOGISTICS OF SUCH AN UNCON-

DITIONAL RELEASE.

THE POLICY OF THE USG OF REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE WITH  
ABDUCTORS OF AMERICAN ABROAD WAS ALSO CLEARLY EXPLAINED.

THE QUESTION OF A FURTHER MEETING WAS LEFT OPEN.  
THE ELF REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED THAT TALKS REMAIN  
SECRET.

IF THE ELF REVEALS TO THE MEDIA THAT ITS REPRE-  
SENTATIVES HAVE MET WITH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
USG PLANS MERELY TO CONFIRM, IF ASKED, THAT SUCH A  
MEETING OCCURRED.

IF THE PRESS ASKS WHETHER THIS MEETING INVOLVED  
NEGOTIATIONS, OUR SPOKESMAN WILL REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE,  
ADDING THAT US TERRORISM POLICIES ARE WELL KNOWN.  
END TEXT.  
HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, PRESS RELEASES, PRISONERS RELEASE, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS12602  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750370-0593  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 253190, 75 KHARTOUM 2471  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KAGNEW 4: BRIEFING OF EPMG  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US, (MOFA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006